

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 15 of 1888.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 14th April 1888.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No. | Names of newspapers. | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| BENGALI. | | | | |
| <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Ahammadi" ... | Tangail, Mymensingh. | ..... |  |
| 2 | "Kasipore Nibási" ... | Kasipore, Burrisal ... | ..... |  |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | |
| 3 | "Ave Maria" ... | Calcutta | ..... |  |
| 4 | "Chandra Vilásh" ... | Berhampore | ..... |  |
| 5 | "Divákar" ... | Calcutta | ..... |  |
| 6 | "Gaura Duta" ... | Maldah | ..... |  |
| 7 | "Grambási" ... | Uluberia | ..... |  |
| 8 | "Púrva Bangabási" ... | Noakhally | ..... |  |
| 9 | "Purva Darpan" ... | Chittagong | 700 | |
| 10 | "Uttara Banga Hitaishi" ... | Mahiganj, Rungpore... | ..... |  |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 11 | "Arya Darpan" ... | Calcutta | 102 | 6th April 1888. |
| 12 | "Bangabási" ... | Ditto | 20,000 | 7th ditto. |
| 13 | "Burdwán Sanjivani" ... | Burdwan | 302 | 3rd ditto. |
| 14 | "Cháruvartá" ... | Sherepore, Mymensingh | 500 | 2nd ditto. |
| 15 | "Chattal Gazette" ... | Chittagong | ..... | 3rd ditto. |
| 16 | "Dacca Prakásh" ... | Dacca | 450 | 8th ditto. |
| 17 | "Dhumaketu" ... | Chandernagore | ..... |  |
| 18 | "Education Gazette" ... | Hooghly | 825 | 6th ditto. |
| 19 | "Garib" ... | Dacca | ..... |  |
| 20 | "Hindu Ranjiká" ... | Beaulah, Rajshahye... | 200 | 4th ditto. |
| 21 | "Jagabási" ... | Calcutta | ..... | 5th ditto. |
| 22 | "Murshidábád Patriká" ... | Berhampore | 508 | |
| 23 | "Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ... | Ditto | ..... | 6th ditto. |
| 24 | "Navavibhákar Sádharani" ... | Calcutta | 1,000 | 9th ditto. |
| 25 | "Prájá Bandhu" ... | Chandernagore | 995 | 6th ditto. |
| 26 | "Pratikár" ... | Berhampore | 600 | |
| 27 | "Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ... | Kakiniá, Rungpore | 205 | 5th ditto. |
| 28 | "Sahachar" ... | Calcutta | 500 | 4th ditto. |
| 29 | "Samaya" ... | Ditto | 2,350 | 6th ditto. |
| 30 | "Sanjivani" ... | Ditto | 4,000 | 7th ditto. |
| 31 | "Sansodhini" ... | Chittagong | 800 | 30th March 1888. |
| 32 | "Saráswat Patra" ... | Dacca | 400 | |
| 33 | "Som Prakásh" ... | Calcutta | 1,000 | |
| 34 | "Srimanta Saudagár" ... | Ditto | ..... |  |
| 35 | "Sulabha Samáchar and Kusadaha" ... | Ditto | 3,000 | 6th April 1888. |
| 36 | "Surabhi and Patáká" ... | Ditto | 700 | 5th ditto. |
| <i>Daily.</i> | | | | |
| 37 | "Dainik and Samachár Chandriká" ... | Calcutta | 7,000 | 9th and 10th April 1888. |
| 38 | "Samvád Prabhákar" ... | Ditto | 200 | 4th to 10th ditto. |
| 39 | "Samvád Purnachandrodaya" ... | Ditto | 300 | |
| 40 | "Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ... | Ditto | 500 | |

| No. | Names of newspapers. | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. |
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| ENGLISH AND BENGALI. | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 41 | "Dacca Gazette" | Dacca ... | | 9th April 1888. |
| HINDI. | | | | |
| <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 42 | "Darjeeling Mission ke Māsik Sámachār Patrikā" | Darjeeling ... | ..... |  |
| 43 | "Kshatriya Pratikā" | Patna ... | ..... |  |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 44 | "Aryāvarta" | Calcutta ... | ..... |  |
| 45 | "Behar Bandhu" | Bankipore ... | ..... |  |
| 46 | "Bhārat Mitra" | Calcutta ... | 1,500 | 5th ditto. |
| 47 | "Sār Sudhānidhi" | Ditto ... | 500 | |
| 48 | "Uchit Baktā" | Ditto ... | 4,500 | |
| 49 | "Hindi Samāchār" | Bhagulpore ... | 1,000 | |
| PERSIAN. | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 50 | "Jām-Jahān-numā" | Calcutta ... | 250 | 6th ditto. |
| URDU. | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 51 | "Aftal Alum Arrah" | Arrah ... | ..... |  |
| 52 | "Anis" | Patna ... | ..... |  |
| 53 | "Gauhur" | Calcutta ... | 196 | |
| 54 | "Sharaf-ul-Akbar" | Behar ... | 160 | |
| 55 | "Al Punch" | Bankipore ... | ..... |  |
| <i>Bi-weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 56 | "Akhar-i-darusaltanat" | Calcutta ... | 340 | 3rd and 7th April 1888. |
| <i>Daily.</i> | | | | |
| 57 | "Urdu Guide" | Calcutta ... | 212 | 6th to 10th ditto. |
| URIYA. | | | | |
| <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 58 | "Taraka and Subhavartā" | Cuttack ... | ..... |  |
| 59 | "Pradip" | Ditto ... | ..... |  |
| 60 | "Samyabadi" | Ditto ... | ..... |  |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 61 | "Utkal Dīpikā" | Cuttack ... | 200 | |
| 62 | "Balasore Samvad Vāhika" | Balasore ... | 205 | |
| 63 | "Sanskāraka" | Cuttack ... | 200 | |
| 64 | "Uriya and Navasamvād" | Balasore ... | ..... |  |
| PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM. | | | | |
| BENGALI. | | | | |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | |
| 65 | "Silchar" | Silchar ... | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 66 | "Paridarshak" | Sylhet ... | 450 | 2nd April 1888. |

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE *Sansodhini*, of the 30th March, is dissatisfied with the decision of the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division in the Chittagong Sankirtan case. The Commissioner will leave a bad name behind him in Chittagong for not having dealt with this case more carefully.

SANSODHINI,
March 30th 1888.

2. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 3rd April, says that it has received information to the effect that some *cutcha* houses at Radhanagar have been destroyed by fire. The fire is attributed to some mischievous men. Why is the police so inert? The local Superintendent of Police is an active man. Will he not bring the *budmashes* to justice?

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
April 3rd, 1888.

The head-constable of the Manteswar outpost, in the district of Burdwan.

3. A correspondent of the same paper says that he and some of his friends were lately talking in a shop about the orders passed by Mr. Walker on the application made to him by Baboo Basanta Kumar Bose, Sub-Inspector of Kumaria, Chittagong, as given in a recent issue of the *Bangabasi* newspaper, when the head-constable of the Manteswar outpost, Nityanand Sing, suddenly appeared, and in great anger took out of his pocket a copy of that newspaper and challenged them to show where the report was; and when this was done, he flew into a rage and abused them in the most vile terms, calling them *paji*, &c. A complaint against him has been forwarded to Mr. Veasey, Inspector-General of Police.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI

Dacoity at Khanpur near Tarakesvara.

4. The *Sahachar*, of the 4th April, would like to be informed of the nature of the investigation which is being carried on in regard to the recent dacoity at Khanpur near Tarakesvara.

SAHACHAR,
April 4th, 1888.

The Nattore Police.

5. A correspondent of the *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 4th April, says that a fire recently broke out at the house of a pleader of Nattore, and everyone was busy putting it out. A police constable, named Niranjan, took this opportunity of making away with a small box belonging to the pleader. This attracted notice, and a hue and cry was raised, whereupon the constable ran away, leaving the box. Some people chased the constable and overtook and beat him. A Brahmin who went to the thana to report the occurrence was insulted by the constables in the presence of the Sub-Inspector, and had his holy thread torn by them. The Brahmin has lodged a complaint before the Magistrate. It is a matter of regret that Narayan Baboo, the Sub-Inspector, is trying only to establish the fact of assault on the constable. But it is natural that he should do so. The number of educated men in the Police Department is very few, and that is why police officers invariably try to shield the men serving under them. The Sub-Inspector will do well to report the real facts of the case.

HINDU RANJIKI,
April 4th, 1888.

The Dhaniakhali Police in Hooghly.

6. A correspondent of the *Sulabh Samachar and Kushdaha*, of the 6th April, says that a murder and several dacoities have been committed in villages situated within a distance of two or three miles from the Dhaniakhali thana. But the police has not succeeded in bringing the offenders to justice. In Sravan last the dead body of a young man was found in one extremity of the village Moubashia badly mutilated. Baboo Kadar Nath De, the then Sub-Inspector of the Dhaniakhali thana, did not succeed in tracing the murderer; but he made the poor people of the place, where he held the

SULABHA SAMACHAR &
KUSHDAHA,
April 6th, 1888.

investigation, entertain him in a right regal style. Shortly after this, in Bhadra last, a dacoity was committed at Khanpore at the house of one Hari Krishna Kurmakar. One of the dacoits confessed his guilt, but he was very lightly dealt with, and Kadar Nath De, the Sub-Inspector, took no action against the other persons who were named by this dacoit as his accomplices in the dacoity. In Aswin last, another dacoity was committed at Chopra, but the police were equally unsuccessful in tracing the dacoits. Baboo Chandi Charan Ghosh, the present Sub-Inspector, is reputed to be a good man; but he is wanting in tact and energy. He was deputed to make enquiries into the dacoity at Chopra, but he has not succeeded in tracing the dacoits. Some of the dacoits have been badly hurt and have got marks of violence on their bodies, but the police has not, in spite of all that, succeeded in detecting any one amongst them. The writer is fully convinced that it is the inefficiency of the police that has led to the repetition of these cases of dacoity. The police, indeed, is falling in the estimation of the people on account of its inefficiency. People do not now consider their lives and property secure, and seem to be panic-struck. If it be the object of Government that every man should protect his own life and property, why does it maintain a police at so large a cost? The authorities are requested to depute some competent police officer to Dhaniakhali with a view of putting an end to the anarchy that now reigns at that place.

BANGABASI,
April 7th, 1888.

7. A correspondent of the *Bangabási*, of the 7th April, complains of the ravages of mad dogs at Rukundi, Kharki, Bahadurpore, Kandarpapore, and

other villages within the jurisdiction of the Mahendigunga thana in the Burisal district. Two or three mad dogs are to be found in every village, and they are doing immense injury to men and cattle. The absence of *shikaris* is much felt in these villages. The police is requested to kill these mad dogs soon.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
April 9th, 1888.

8. The *Navavibhakar Sadharoni*, of the 9th April, publishes a letter from the gentleman at whose house near Dhaniakhali a terrible dacoity was recently committed. He gives a circumstan-

A dacoity near Dhaniakhali, in the district of Hooghly.

tial account of the occurrence, and concludes as follows:—"From two hundred to four hundred coolies are coming and going every day. The law does not empower the police to say anything to anybody. Such being the case, there is no means of apprehending dacoits unless dacoits themselves come in and say: 'Apprehend us; it is we who committed the dacoity!' If the milk given to the police officers who hold the investigation is not sufficient, they say: 'The pen is in our hand; we can write at any moment just as we please.' There is no lack of threats too. The Police Inspector, Rohini Baboo, the *goala* Sub-Inspector, the Sub-Inspector of Jamalpore, eight or ten constables and two head-constables are making an investigation. The fuss and noise they are making is not small. But how will the dacoits be traced when the law does not permit even the use of harsh words to anybody? One cannot but sigh mournfully for the good old days of Sir Stuart Hogg. Some of the dacoits were wounded with shots, and three of those thus wounded are sure to die. The body of one of them has been found headless. The hands and legs of another have also been found, but not the head. Nothing particular was done when these traces were found; and it was only after it had been hard pressed that the police once came to make an enquiry. This is why I am so anxious that you should realise the utter helplessness of my situation. Please publish an advertisement, offering a reward of one hundred rupees for the detection of the dacoits. If any cost is incurred in doing so, I shall

pay it. Please also see that this comes to the notice of the Viceroy. My property consisted of Rs. 3,000 in currency notes of Rs. 10 each, of another sum of Rs. 110 in currency notes, and of clothes and other articles of the value of Rs. 1,000. I have not now a single piece of copper left!"

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

9. The *Samaya*, of the 6th April, complains that the Government Pleader in the Calcutta Police Court having always too much work to do, cases have often to be adjourned, which means that the accused have often to remain in *hajut* without good reason, that they have to incur heavy expenses, and that they have to suffer prolonged mental agony. Remedial measures should be taken at once.

10. The same paper gives the following case as illustrating what it considers highhandedness on the part of Mr. Bourdillon, Magistrate of Sarun:—

One Vaidya Mutan was charged with rioting in the Court of R. A. Narayan Singh, Deputy Magistrate of Sarun. The man was ordered to be released on bail, and his friends, Palakdhari, Malong and others, went to the Sub-Inspector in the Deputy Magistrate's Court for the purpose of tendering bail. On the refusal of the Court Sub-Inspector to release Vaidya on bail, Palakdhari and others addressed an application to the Magistrate of Sarun, stating that the Sub-Inspector had demanded from them a bribe of Rs. 50 as a consideration for releasing Vaidya. The Magistrate sent the application to the Deputy Magistrate, Mr. Martin, requesting him, at the same time, to try the case against the Sub-Inspector. After hearing the statement made by the applicants, Mr. Martin ordered summonses to be issued against the Sub-Inspector and the writer-constable under him, and the 19th November last was fixed for the hearing of the case. On the 18th, the applicants Palakdhari and others learnt that, in accordance with an order of the District Magistrate, the case against the Sub-Inspector had been transferred to the file of Baboo R. A. Narayan Singh. Palakdhari thereupon applied to the Magistrate asking him to retransfer the case to the file of Mr. Martin. This, as well as another application, wherein Palakdhari asked the Magistrate's permission to engage the services of the Government Pleader on his behalf, was refused. The case was consequently tried by Baboo Narayan Singh, who refused Palakdhari's application to put off its hearing till the motion which he contemplated making before the High Court for the purpose of getting the case transferred from the file of the Deputy Magistrate's (Narayan Singh's) Court had been decided. The result was that both the accused were acquitted. Now came Mr. Bourdillon's turn to play his own part. Charges were framed against Palakdhari and Malong under sections 211 and 193 of the Indian Penal Code for instituting a false case, and Palakdhari was arrested in open Court. He asked to be released on bail, and the Magistrate referred him to the Sub-Inspector, the same who had been charged with having attempted to take a bribe from him, saying that he, the Sub-Inspector, was at liberty to accept or to refuse bail according as he thought it sufficient or otherwise. As might have been anticipated, the Sub-Inspector considered the bail tendered on behalf of Palakdhari insufficient, and Palakdhari was remanded to *hajut*. In despair Palakdhari asked to be tried by the Sessions Judge of Sarun, who ordered the Deputy Magistrate to send up to him all the papers connected with the case as well as to release Palakdhari on bail. The Sessions Judge sent up the case to the High Court, with a report stating that oppression had been committed on Palakdhari by the Magistrate, the Deputy Magistrate, and the Court Sub-Inspector. Mr. Justice Wilson, of

SAMAYA,
April 6th, 1888.

SAMAYA.

the Calcutta High Court, who tried the case, has passed a decision cancelling the orders of the Magistrate and the Deputy Magistrate, and ordering the retrial of the Sub-Inspector by the District Magistrate, Mr. Bourdillon. Now, with reference to this judgment of Mr. Justice Wilson, it is to be remarked that as all this illegality and oppression had its origin in the lawlessness of Mr. Bourdillon, who is responsible for the acquittal of the Sub-Inspector, and the subsequent prosecution of Palakdhari, he is not the person to whom the case should have been sent for retrial. If Palakdhari's story about the bribe be true, would he be able to prove it in the face of the conspiracy set on foot against him by Mr. Bourdillon? As all the trouble to which Palakdhari has been subjected has been owing to the transfer by the Magistrate of the case against the Sub-Inspector from Mr. Martin's file, the Magistrate should be called upon to explain why he took that step. Sir Steuart Bayley is earnestly entreated to give his best attention to this case and bring the offenders in connection with it to justice.

BANGABASI,
April 7th, 1888.

11. The *Bangabási*, of the 7th April, disapproves of the order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, empowering Magistrates to take down evidence in criminal cases in the English language under section 17 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Taking down evidence in English is considered very advantageous by some people on the ground that it saves the Appellate Courts the trouble of translating vernacular evidence into English. But this practice of writing down evidence in English often causes serious mischief. Many native Judicial officers possess a very imperfect knowledge of the English language, and they therefore make serious errors in translating vernacular evidence into English. The writer has heard many able and experienced Civil and Sessions Judges in Bengal say that this practice does more harm than good. European Magistrates too are found to commit errors in making these translations. The writer is glad to find that the Government of Bombay has strongly protested against this system, and has pointed out the evils which mark its working. It is earnestly hoped that the Government will exercise care and judgment in vesting Magistrates with the power of taking down evidence in the English language.

BANGABASI.

12. The same paper says that the Judges of the Calcutta High Court have sent the case of Palakdhari of Sarun against the police officers and the Court Sub-Inspector of Sarun for retrial to the Magistrate of Sarun. But the Magistrate of Sarun having identified himself with the police in this case, it would have been better if the High Court had sent the case to another Magistrate for retrial.

(d)—*Education.*

CHATTAL GAZETTE,
April 3rd, 1888.

13. The *Chattal Gazette*, of the 3rd April, says that the Superintendent of the Chittagong Madrassa was asked by the Commission which was appointed to enquire into the recent disturbance at that institution why prizes had not been given to the students and for how many years, and he informed the Commission that there had been no prize-giving for only two years, and that because the binding of the books to be given away as prizes had been delayed. But will the Superintendent explain why at the last distribution of prizes at the Madrassa prizes were given for the years 1883 downwards, and why only three or four of the prize-books were bound books? It is clear the Superintendent has made false statements. He has, in fact, disgraced the school-master's calling, and he is a

The Superintendent of the Chittagong Madrassa.

very bad example for boys to follow. Government is therefore entreated to transfer him from Chittagong, and the Director of Public Instruction is earnestly requested to grant this prayer of the people of Chittagong.

14. The same paper has heard complaints against the head-master of the Sitakundu school in Chittagong. The head-master extorts money from the pilgrims who visit that celebrated shrine.

The head-master of the Sitakundu school in Chittagong.

The writer indeed feels ashamed to describe all that he does. He is the disgrace of the Education Department, and he cannot certainly be expected to exercise a healthy moral influence upon his pupils. Baboo Kumud Bandhu Bose, the Deputy Inspector of Schools, is requested to transfer him elsewhere if he cannot remove him from the service altogether.

15. The *Surabhi and Patáká*, of the 5th April, has heard complaints to the effect that the senior examiners of the Calcutta University for 1887-88 have exercised undue influence over the other examiners.

The senior examiners of the Calcutta University.

Indeed, some of them are alleged to have treated the other examiners in a most ungentlemanly manner, calling upon them for explanation and brow-beating them at every step. All this, if true, must be pronounced to be very bad. And if this conduct on the part of the senior examiners is allowed to pass unnoticed, respectable men will probably cease to apply for University Examinerships.

16. The *Samaya*, of the 6th April, says that some years ago Government conceived a project about establishing a veterinary school, but nothing has yet been done to carry it out. It is certainly advisable for Government which can easily find money for so many other purposes, and for the native zemindars who can subscribe immense sums of money for very trifling objects, to do all that they can to establish a school of this kind for which there is a crying want in the country. It is hoped that Sir Stuart Bayley will kindly direct his attention to this subject, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will also take an active interest in it.

17. The same paper disapproves of the Minor Scholarship and the Vernacular Examinations being held at the premises of the Calcutta Normal School. It is said that only the teachers of that school, to the exclusion of other qualified mofussil teachers, are appointed as guards, which is the reason that such bad things are said against those examinations. It is further stated that the examinations are conducted in such a disorderly manner, and with so much partiality, that the public has every right to make objections against them. It is hoped that Rai Radhika Prasanna Mookerjee, Bahadoor, Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, will kindly pass orders for holding these examinations from next year at the Senate House, and will appoint either the Secretaries or the Head-masters of mofussil schools as guards.

18. The same paper says that really educated men should be appointed examiners at the Minor Scholarship and Vernacular Examinations. It is the subordinates of the Inspectors of Schools

Text-books and Examiners for the Minor Scholarship and the Vernacular Examinations.

who are generally appointed such examiners. How and with what propriety are these men, who spend all their time in servile clerkly drudgery, who do not pass even the Entrance Examination of the University, and who with great difficulty read only up to the Entrance standard, entrusted with such work as the conduct of these examinations? Cannot qualified men be found for this purpose in the whole city of Calcutta? All this tells badly against the present Bengali Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle.

CHATTAL GAZETTE,
April 23rd, 1888.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
April 5th, 1888.

SAMAYA,
April 6th, 1888.

SAMAYA.

SAMAYA.

Again, the selection of text-books for these examinations is often most objectionable. Very often worthless books, written by unknown authors, who gain the favour of the Inspector by flattery, are selected as text-books. This is nepotism pure and simple, and should be put down. The Inspectors themselves are also found to include their own worthless productions in the list of text-books.

Dacca Prakash,
April 8th, 1888.

19. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 8th April, says that as the expenses of the school at Sayestanagar in Noakhally founded by the 12-anna zemindars of the place are defrayed by subscriptions raised among the tenants of the zemindars, the Inspector of Schools, Eastern Circle, and the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Noakhally, should not grant aid to the school, as they have been asked to do without making careful enquiries.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

Charu Varta,
April 2nd, 1888.

20. The *Charuvarta*, of the 2nd April, says that arrangements should be made for the supply of filtered water in Mymensingh town. The Brahmaputra is silted up near the town of Mymensingh, and it does not therefore now supply pure drinking water to the inhabitants of that town. The insanitary condition of the town and the annual outbreaks of cholera in it are mainly owing to the use of this foul water of the Brahmaputra.

Burdwan Sanjivani,
April 3rd, 1888.

21. Referring to the Burdwan Municipal Budget for 1888-89, the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 3rd April, observes as follows :—

I.—The amount set apart for the school building should be made use of. It is to be regretted that no use has been made as yet of the amount set apart last year for the same purpose. The school is at present located in a private house, which hardly accommodates the students. The school really wants a building of its own.

II.—As provision has been made for increasing the number of street lamps, so better arrangements for watering the streets should also have been made.

III.—One thousand rupees will be too small an allotment for the reconstruction of the water drains.

IV.—Instead of wasting more than about Rs. 200 every year for the maintenance of the Kanchanagar Middle English School, the municipal authorities should reduce that school to the status of an upper primary school, and set up a vernacular school for little boys in the town of Burdwan.

V.—The sum set apart for metalling some *cutch* roads will be insufficient for that purpose. Instead of metalling all such roads at once, which is not found to be practicable, it would be better policy to metal one road every year.

Chattal Gazette,
April 3rd, 1888.

22. The *Chattal Gazette*, of the 3rd April, does not agree with the *Sansodhini* newspaper in thinking that the District Board of Chittagong will not work well without a paid Vice-Chairman (see Weekly Report on Native Papers for the week ending the 7th April 1888 paragraph 21).

Sahachar,
April 4th, 1888.

23. The *Sahachar*, of the 4th April, referring to the circular letter addressed by the Bengal Government to the Commissioners of Divisions on the subject of giving seats on Municipal Boards in the mofussil to Magistrates and Civil

Surgeons, remarks that, under the proposed change, Magistrates would be sure to control the affairs of the mofussil municipalities and that whether they are made Chairmen or ordinary Commissioners. It was Lord Ripon's idea that Magistrates should only watch the progress of Local Self-Government from outside and in no way interfere with its working. It is not known how the Commissioners will report on the subject. But the public will be glad to see the Magistrate kept outside the Municipal Board.

24. Referring to Sir Steuart Bayley's Circular asking the Divisional Commissioners to say whether or not such Municipal Commissioners as are now appointed by Government should be hence-

Sir Steuart Bayley's Municipal Circular.

forward elected by the rate-payers, the *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 4th April, says that Mr. Macaulay is the father of Local Self-Government in Bengal, and it is therefore expected that many municipal reforms will be introduced by Sir Steuart Bayley by Mr. Macaulay's advice. May Heaven allow such a good ruler to reign in peace over the people of Bengal for years to come, and may Heaven put it in his power to please his subjects!

HINDU RANJIKA,
April 4th, 1888.

25. The same paper complains of irregularity in watering the streets within the Rampore Beaulah Municipality. Funds have been provided for the purpose, but the work of watering is not properly done.

The Rampore Beaulah Municipality.

The Chairman of the Municipality is requested to look to the matter.

HINDU RANJIKA,

26. The *Sulabh Samāchār and Kushdaha*, of the 6th April, says that almost all the villages of Bengal, except a few important ones, suffer from scar-

Scarcity of water in Bengal.

city of water during the summer months. This grievance will not be removed if Government does not direct its attention to it. The cost of re-excavating foul tanks should be defrayed out of the Road Cess and Public Works Cess funds. The construction of roads may be deferred till the lives of the people have been saved. The authorities are therefore requested to remove the scarcity of water in the villages by making contributions from the Road Cess and Public Works Cess funds.

SULABH SAMACHAR &
KUSHDAHA,
April 6th, 1888.

27. The *Murshidabad Pratinidhi*, of the 6th April, says that a large quantity of stale fish is sold in the markets at Khagra and Berhampore in Murshidabad.

The sale of stale fish at Khagra and Berhampore.

The poor people purchase such fish in large quantities on account of its extreme cheapness and consume the same. The water of the Ganges near Berhampore is also getting impure as the summer season is advancing. If the municipal authorities do not take timely precautionary measures against all this, cholera will break out in those places.

MURSHIDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
April 6th, 1888.

28. The *Prajā Bandhu*, of the 6th April, referring to Sir Steuart Bayley's Circular, calling upon the Commissioners of divisions to give their opinion as to the expediency or otherwise of giving seats

Sir Steuart Bayley's Municipal Circular.

on the Municipal Boards to Civil Surgeons and to persons authorised by magistrates to act on this behalf, says that the contemplated measure will produce more good than harm; provided a law is passed, making the Government nominees in question incapable of holding either the Vice-Chairmanships or the Chairmanships of municipalities.

PRAJA BANDHU,
April 6th, 1888.

29. The *Samaya*, of the 6th April, hopes that, in view of the present outbreak of cholera in the Northern division of Calcutta and in Serampore, the Municipal

Cholera in Calcutta and Serampore.

authorities of those places will take special measures to prevent the sale of stale *kilsha* fish as well as of other noxious articles of food in the basars.

SAMAYA,
April 6th, 1888.

BANATA.
April 6th, 1888.

80. A correspondent of the same paper takes exception to the appointment of the native doctor attached to the Sahebgunge railway station as Vice-Chairman of the Sahebgunge Municipality on the following grounds:—In the first place, the doctor is a new comer, and, as such, unacquainted with the local public and their affairs; in the second place, he is a railway officer, and a Commissioner nominated by Government; and in the third place, his fitness for the post is open to doubt.

SANJIVANI,
April 7th, 1888.

31. The *Sanjivani*, of the 7th April says, that the circular letter addressed by Sir Steuart Bayley to the Commissioners of divisions on the subject of appointing Government nominees to the Municipal Boards in the mofussil, bears testimony to His Honour's honesty of purpose and to his large-heartedness, and observes that the proposal made in the third paragraph of the letter to appoint to the Municipality two Government nominees, namely, the Civil Surgeon and some person representing the district Magistrate, can only be accepted if none of these two Government nominees is allowed to become Chairman. For, without such a restriction, private individuals will have little chance of being elected Municipal Chairmen. In 1885, when Sir Rivers Thompson nominated district Magistrates and Sub-divisional officers to Municipal Commissionerships in the mofussil, it was found that those officers were in most instances elected Chairmen of Municipalities. That an official Chairman is apt to abuse his powers is well known to Sir Steuart Bayley, who is, therefore, asked to make a provision to the effect that the consent of two-thirds of the Commissioners of a Municipality would be necessary to enable a Government nominee to become Chairman.

DARUSSALTANAT,
April 7th, 1888.

32. The *Darussaltanat*, of the 7th April, says that the abolition of the system of nominating Municipal Commissioners will be injurious to Mussulmans, because the number of elected Mussulman Commissioners is smaller than that of the elected Hindu Commissioners.

URDU GUIDE,
April 7th, 1888.

33. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 7th April, does not think that the presence of only the Magistrate and the Civil Surgeon in municipalities will be sufficient for the protection of Government interests.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 9th, 1888.

34. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 9th April, praises Lord Dufferin for having attended a meeting of the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality. None of his predecessors did such a thing. But this act of the Viceroy will not warrant the conclusion that His Lordship is a friend of Local Self-Government in this country. If he had been such a friend, he would not have supported the scandalous proceedings of Sir Rivers Thompson in connection with the Calcutta Municipality some two years ago.

(h)—General.

CHARUVARTA,
April 2nd, 1888.

35. It strikes the *Charuvarta*, of the 2nd April, as very curious that the Mymensingh Abkari office should have a corrugated iron roofing, whilst the registry office is held only in a thatched house. Pucca buildings ought to be constructed for all the public offices at Mymensingh, and specially for the Registry office where valuable documents are deposited. The other day a fire broke out and burnt down Kali Baboo's *kutchery*. The authorities should take warning from this.

CHARTVANA,
April 2nd, 1888.

36. A correspondent of the same paper says that many persons employ the Sub-Registrar of Sherpore as their Muktear. But it is highly improper for a Government servant to serve privately in such a capacity. There is a circular of the Bengal Government prohibiting the employment of a person in any responsible public office in or near his native village. The present Sub-Registrar is an inhabitant of the place, and should not therefore be allowed to hold the office of Registrar at that place. Mr. Dutt, the Magistrate of Mymensingh, is requested to remove the Sub-Registrar from Sherpore without delay, and thus to put an end to a local grievance.

37. The *Sahachar*, of the 4th April, says that the problem of Indian administration is daily becoming graver and graver. Already the public debt of India amounts to 160 crores of rupees. One-half of this immense sum has been raised in England, and about three crores of rupees has to be sent to England every year as interest on the loan raised in that country; and of this three crores, one crore represents loss by exchange. Those who say that the Government of India can lose nothing by making loans in England should therefore be reminded of the immense drain caused on the resources of the Indian people by the charges on account of interest which have to be met in England in consequence of Indian loans being contracted in that country. The Government of India may not suffer on account of these loans; but it ought to consider how the administration will be carried on if the country becomes insolvent in consequence of this annual drain on its resources. The revenue of the country has been raised to its maximum amount; and instead of endeavouring to increase it still further, which is simply impossible, care should now be taken to reduce it, if possible, with a view of affording some relief to the Indian tax-payer. Anyhow popular dissatisfaction ought to be provided against. To poor people, money is more valuable than life itself; and it would be sheer folly to trifle with their sufferings much longer on such pretexts for an increased demand for money as the fear of a Russian invasion and the necessity of putting the North-Western Frontier in a state of defence. Government is, indeed, aware of the serious turn which affairs in this direction are taking in India, and it is therefore trying to equalise income and expenditure. But as it has at heart the interests of England in preference to those of India, the measures which it adopts in order to improve its financial position are necessarily very imperfect and inadequate; and hence its financial situation is becoming more and more dangerous every day.

SAHACHAR,
April 4th, 1888.

The financial position of the Government of India has of late been made the subject of public discussion here and in England, and various means have been suggested by which the finances of India may be placed on a satisfactory footing. But it is certain that none of these means will be adopted by Government. For if the real and most efficacious remedy were applied, British interests would suffer; and the Government of India, even if it were willing to do so, could not, from a fear of the very strong opposition which it would be sure to arouse among Englishmen both in England and in India, think of adopting any measure which might injure British interests. It is therefore to be feared that Englishmen will not be roused from their condition of apathy in regard to the financial difficulties of India until those difficulties assume a much graver aspect. It is impossible, however, that the present state of things shall continue for ever; and so either India will become insolvent like Egypt, or her English rulers will find themselves absolutely compelled to govern her in accordance with the advice of her people.

SANACHAR,
April 4th, 1888.

38. The same paper thinks that some able and experienced Subordinate Judge or some Judge of a mofussil Court of Small Causes ought to be appointed to fill up the vacancy caused in the Calcutta Small Cause Court by the death of Baboo Srinath Roy. There has been a native Judge on the bench of that Court for a very long time, and it is desirable that the present vacancy in that Court should be filled up by a native, and that the vacant Judgeship should be given to a Subordinate Judge like Baboo Amritlal rather than to a briefless Barrister-at-law.

SANACHAR.

39. The same paper says that the new rule empowering the officers of Government, from the Collector upwards, to recommend non-gazetted Government servants after they have completed their 55th year for extension of service will produce in consideration of their fitness for work good as well as bad results. It will produce good results when the recommendation will be made on the ground of fitness alone, and it will produce bad results when the recommendation will be influenced by favouritism.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 5th, 1888.

40. The *Bhārat Mitra*, of the 5th April, says that though the income of Government is increasing every year, it is not found sufficient to meet the annual expenditure. The Indians, who once placed their scanty supply of rice at the disposal of Englishmen, moved by the persuasive words of Olive, will gladly consent to any increase of taxation if it is really necessary. But they will not certainly cheerfully acquiesce in increased taxation for the purpose of enabling Government to indulge in luxurious living.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
April 5th, 1888.

41. The *Surabhi and Patākā*, of the 5th April, thus reviews Lord Dufferin's reply to the Town Hall address. Dufferin's speech in reply to the Town Hall address:—

His Excellency said that the onerous duties of his office left him little leisure for cultivating social intercourse with the people. This is true. But if His Excellency had taken care to carry on the administration of India in the interest of her own people, he could have earned the love and gratitude, not of a select few, but of crores of human beings.

His Lordship has said that most of the political and administrative measures completed in his reign were initiated by his immediate predecessor. Does he mean by so saying to warn the people of India that the adverse criticisms which they have levelled against those measures will not affect his own reputation so much as the reputation of their beloved Lord Ripon? If so, let His Lordship take note that the people of India will not be deceived or misled. His Excellency has taken credit to himself for having brought about a satisfactory settlement of the Afghan Boundary question which was left by Lord Ripon in an undeveloped stage. But if Lord Dufferin can congratulate himself on the settlement of that question as removing once for all and for ever all fear of a Russian invasion, why did he spend immense sums of money in strengthening the frontier defences of India? And can he hold Lord Ripon responsible for this immense waste of public money?

Referring to the conquest of Burma, His Excellency said that the inception of that measure was also due to Lord Ripon. It is true that the question of the annexation of Burma first arose in the reign of Lord Ripon. But it is equally true that it was due to Lord Ripon's strong opposition that the annexation was not determined upon in his time. His Excellency said that the annexation of Burma was forced upon him by French intrigue, by the miserable condition of the people of Burma under the tyrannical rule of King Theebaw, and by various other considerations, among which, however,

the knowing public misses the true cause, namely, a strong desire to serve the interests of British merchants anxious to find a new market for their goods.

In defending the expenditure incurred by India in the conquest of Upper Burma, Lord Dufferin said that in contributing towards the expenses of the Burmese War, India is only returning the money which she has hitherto received from Lower Burma.

But what does this statement mean? Does it mean that, in the opinion of His Excellency, the sum of about a crore of rupees, which India has, for the last few years, drawn from Lower Burma, will cover the expenditure which she has incurred in the conquest of that country, and which she will yet have to incur in maintaining an army there?

As to Theebaw's cruelty and misrule which, according to His Excellency, were sufficient justification for the conquest of Burma, would His Lordship say what Englishmen would think if France or the United States were to lay claim to or take Ireland on precisely the same grounds?

His Excellency expressed regret for having been compelled to levy new taxes for the purpose of meeting the deficit caused by the Burmese war. But ought not the expenses of that war to have been borne by British merchants in whose interest it was undertaken? And if India was really considered liable to contribute towards the expenses of that war, why was she not allowed to raise the required revenue by imposing an import duty on European piece-goods?

There is no good reason for giving His Excellency credit for the appointment of the Public Service Commission; for in appointing that Commission His Excellency may have simply carried out the orders of the Government at home, which, fearing a disagreeable exposure from the proposed Royal Commission, may have hit upon the expedient of a Public Service Commission and accordingly advised Lord Dufferin to appoint it. His Excellency expressed himself highly satisfied with the loyalty displayed by the Native Princes of India in the offers of men and money which they have made to the Government of India for the purpose of defending India against external enemies. But what has His Excellency done on his own part to please these loyal Princes? And what does the condition of Bhopal and Rewa, of Cashmere and Hyderabad, signify in this connection?

Lord Dufferin professed to have treated the various sections of the Indian people in an impartial spirit and exhorted all the various peoples inhabiting India to cultivate friendly feelings. But how is it that the process of unification of the various Indian races, which made such progress in the time of Lord Ripon, has suffered so serious a check under His Lordship's administration?

42. The *Proja Bandhu*, of the 6th April, has the following about His Excellency Lord Dufferin:—

Lord Dufferin.

There are many things which Lord Dufferin could have done without making any reference to the Government at home, and which he has nevertheless left undone.

(1.) The acts of oppression which Sir Lepel Griffin has committed in Bhopal, and which are sufficient to send a thrill of horror through the heart, have all been brought to the notice of His Excellency, but the perpetrator of those acts is in no worse plight for all that. His highhandedness remains as unchecked as ever.

(2.) The little State of Rewa is now being administered by the British Government, and Sir Lepel Griffin is all-in-all there. The minor Maharajah is completely within the clutches of Englishmen, and the Dowager Maharani is not even allowed to put a morsel of food into her son's mouth.

And who will feel sympathy with the man under whose rule a mother cannot feed her child, and a wife cannot associate with her husband?

PRAJA BANDHU,
April 6th, 1888.

(3.) The circumstances which led to the death of the late Maharani of Tikari are still fresh in men's minds. Well, has Mr. Bolton, who brought about her death by various acts of tyranny and oppression, been visited with any punishment whatever?

(4.) In Assam hundreds of poor coolies are being tyrannised over by the planters, whose countless acts of oppression have been brought to the notice of the Viceroy in the clearest manner possible. But has he moved in the matter?

And do the eulogists of Lord Dufferin's administration mean to say that His Excellency had not the power to remove any of the complaints noticed above? How can people expect the abolition of the Arms Act, the reconstitution of the Legislative Councils, the conferring of the volunteering right on the natives, and such other big measures from the man under whose rule a wife cannot attend upon her husband, a husband cannot call his wife his own, and a mother cannot have the satisfaction of feeding her child? By conniving at the misdeeds of Sir Lepel Griffin and Mr. Bolton, His Excellency has encouraged them in their career of highhandedness, and by pardoning the forger Gibbon he has made the planters even more oppressive than before. Such a ruler is Lord Dufferin, and can any good man conscientiously join a demonstration got-up in his favour?

URDU GUIDE,
April 6th, 1888.

43. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 6th April, says that the salaries of English officers from the Viceroy downwards are disproportionately high. If natives are appointed to those posts on two-thirds of those salaries, the work of administration will be done much better. And so long as some such arrangement is not adopted, no Retrenchment Committee will be able to do any good work.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
April 6th, 1888.

44. The *Education Gazette*, of the 6th April, combats the *Sahachar's* view that India will never derive any benefit from the conquest of Upper Burma, by saying that it is impossible to say with any degree of emphasis that the revenues of Burma will not increase in future, especially when it is seen that every one of the countries conquered by England has, in the course of time, yielded increased revenue.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,

45. Referring to the *Hindu Ranjika's* statement that Sir Stuart Bayley's proposal to appoint a highly-paid officer to investigate coolie-recruiting operations in Bengal will lead to no practical result, and that a Commission ought to be appointed for the purpose, the same paper observes that Sir Stuart Bayley's proposal is likely to gain its end speedily and at small cost. The suggestion regarding the appointment of a Commission ought to have been made after the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal had been carried out and found to fail.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,

46. The same paper exonerates Lord Dufferin from the charge preferred against him by the *Samaya* newspaper that His Excellency has not as he should have done amended the Coolie and Arms Acts by saying that Lord Ripon too did not amend those Acts.

BANGABASI,
April 7th, 1888.

47. The *Bangabasi*, of the 7th April, says that Government concerns itself only with large questions of expenditure and pays no attention to minor matters of economy. It seems to think that if care is taken of the big matters, the smaller matters will take care of themselves. But it is not big matters that always endanger the safety of a country. Small matters no unostentatious create insurmountable difficulties.

The English Government does not attend sufficiently to economy. It spends all its resources in maintaining an army for the defence of the empire and in strengthening its outward defences, and so it makes no savings. But what is the use of making preparations with the view of keeping off robbers from the house in which there is no treasure to loot?

The Government should subordinate politics to economy. Economy in expenditure is the fundamental condition of the existence of a State, while politics is useful only for the purpose of maintaining its honour and prestige. Life first, honour next. Therefore, O Englishmen! do not, in your fatal love for politics, forget economy altogether. Your politics says: "Employ European officers in the highest posts in India." And you have allowed yourselves to be guided by your politics on this point. And so you have taken no note of the alarming fact that by giving preference to politics in this way you have simply impoverished India. A conflict is, in fact, going on on all sides between politics and economy. You have attached more importance to politics than to economy, but you will soon find that you have gravely erred in doing so. Your politics must sooner or later bow to economy. But it will probably be too late then to mend matters. Therefore, O Englishmen, be careful from this time!

48. The *Sanjivani*, of the 7th April, says that it has been stated in the Excise despatch of the Government of India that the increase of the excise revenue has not been attended with any increase of the consumption of liquor, and that the increase of the excise revenue is due to increased license fees for the outstills. But the Annual Excise Reports and the Report of the Excise Commission will show that this statement is not true. During the ten years from 1877-78 to 1886-87, the excise revenue has increased in Bengal from Rs. 28,90,460 to Rs. 47,91,249, and the income from the outstills has become almost twice as much as the income from the sudder distilleries. From the sudder distilleries 584,048 gallons of London proof liquor were sold in 1887-88, and 1,178,852 gallons in 1886-87. Thus, while the revenue from the sudder distilleries has nearly doubled during these years, the consumption of liquor has been slightly more than double. To turn to the outstills, the Excise Commission has stated in its Report that the consumption of liquor in almost all towns has increased far more than the income. And does not this prove that the income from the outstills has not increased in the same proportion as the consumption? Government has also stated in the despatch that the excise revenue has increased in consequence of the discontinuance of illicit distillation. But Mr. Nolan, who was Collector of Shahabad when the Excise Commission was investigating the subject, wrote to it to say that he believed that secret distillation was going on as actively as before; and many other officers are of the same opinion. Government has also made quotations from Dr. Rajendralal Mitra's paper on the use of wine under the Hindu Kings with the view of making out that drunkenness has not increased in this country under the English rule. But the Doctor simply says that there are references to drinking in ancient books, and does not state to what extent drunkenness existed in those days. It is not therefore easy to understand how Government has concluded from this that drunkenness has not increased in India in modern times. In reply to Lord Wellesley's enquiry whether the outstill system had increased drunkenness in India, the Moorshedabad Appellate and Circuit Court expressed the opinion that drunkenness had not diminished; that it was confined to certain classes of the population, and that wine was not even touched by the industrial classes and by the cultivators. A similar reply

SANJIVANI,
April 7th, 1888.

was given by the Judge of Midnapore. The despatch says that Government does not tempt anybody to drink. But speaking of Bengal, one can say that, though Government does not actually take the people by the hand to the outstalls, its excise rules are so framed as to strongly tempt people to go there. The writer mentions it as a significant fact in this connection that the Collector of Kolaba, in the Bombay Presidency, once issued a notice to the effect that those who should try to prevent the increase of drunkenness would be punished, and the Bombay Government urged upon the Secretary of State the necessity of punishing such mischievous agitators. And yet Government has the effrontery to say that it does not tempt the people to drink! Government has drawn a subtle but fallacious distinction between a drinker and a drunkard. But no such distinction is recognised in this country, where drinking is not recognised by social custom among any race or class of people. Here in India whoever drinks is called a drunkard, and whoever drinks is thought to drink with the object of getting drunk. The Government of India has tried to throw dust in the eyes of Parliament by sending an empty and wordy despatch.

SANJIVANI,
April 7th, 1888.

49. The same paper is extremely sorry to find that its apprehension that the rumour that the Board of Revenue had refused to lease out the outstill near the factory at Bowreah was false was not unfounded.

The outstill near the factory at Bowreah in the district of Howrah.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 8th, 1888.

50. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 8th April, says that the merchants of Rayapore, Selokhali, and others places in the district of Noakhally have taken advantage of the increase of the salt duty to increase the price of salt by two pice per seer, to the great inconvenience of the poor. Will Government take no steps to put an end to oppression of this nature?

Price of salt in the district of Noakhally.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 9th, 1888.

51. The *Dainik and Samachar Chandrika*, of the 9th April, referring to the *Pioneer's* statement that the army contractors who supplied adulterated ghee for the Sikkim Expedition ought to be severely punished by way of example, says that before these contractors can be punished it will be necessary to ascertain whether they passed off as genuine what they knew to be adulterated ghee. For, so long as this is not done, it will be extremely unjust to prosecute these poor contractors for not doing what the officers of Government themselves failed to do, namely, detecting by chemical analysis whether or no the ghee was adulterated. The sale of adulterated ghee will not stop so long as the sellers only, and not the manufacturers as well, of adulterated ghee are prosecuted and punished under the Ghee Act. It is therefore desirable that the law should be set in motion against the manufacturers of adulterated ghee.

Adulterated ghee supplied by army contractors.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
April 9th, 1888.

52. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 9th April, publishes a protest by the people of Haripore against the removal of the Post Office in that place back again to Bag Anchra, near Santipore. The income of the Post Office was nearly doubled after its removal from Bag Anchra to Haripore. The people of Bag Anchra always insist upon their village being regarded as the centre of the area served by the Post Office in question; but they apparently forget that a place may be a centre from a geometrical point of view, but not a centre from the more important point of view of distribution of population. The population of Bag Anchra and its immediate neighbourhood is very small, and consists of the lower classes of people who are not much interested in a Post Office. Again the letters sent to and from Haripore, Brahmasashan, Raghunathpore,

A Post-Office at Haripore in Nuddea.

and other adjacent villages are so numerous that there can be no doubt that a separate Post Office may be easily maintained at Haripore. The Postmaster-General is therefore requested to establish a Post Office unconnected with the school at Haripore.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

53. The *Sahachar*, of the 4th April, says that to-day an attempt will be made to make short work of the new Municipal Bill. Fifty amendments will be proposed, of which 47 stand in the name of native members. The writer thinks that every one of these 47 will be lost.

SAHACHAR,
April 4th, 1888.

54. The *Sanjivani*, of the 7th April, says that as most of the rent suits brought by zemindars against ryots in this country have their origin in the attempts which are made by the former to exact illegal rents or cesses from the latter, the proposal made by the Hon'ble Raja Peary Mohan Mukerjee during the discussion on the Debtors Bill to the effect that ryots setting up the plea of inability to pay rent should nevertheless be sent to jail, would, if accepted, have armed the zemindars with a dangerous power for oppressing the ryots. That the zemindar often brings cases against the ryot with the sole object of compelling the latter to pay his unjust demands appears from the large number of suits which are instituted every year even by Baboo Joykissen Mukerjee, father of the Hon'ble Member, in the Munsif's Courts at Diamond Harbour. There are now four Munsifs at Diamond Harbour, and one of them at least could be transferred elsewhere if Baboo Joykissen were to cease instituting such suits of his, the majority of which, by the way, are decided against him. The reason why the Hon'ble Member brought forward his amendment will now be clear.

SANJIVANI,
April 7th, 1888.

55. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 9th April, says that the objections urged by Dr. Gurudas Banerjea against the recommendations of the Select Committee on the question of Government interference in the work of the Calcutta Municipality are based upon very strong grounds; but the force of his reasoning was lost upon the official members of the Council. There will always be very great probability of the power of interference given to Government being abused by Governors of the type of Sir Rivers Thompson. It is not a little surprising that Sir Henry Harrison, who has himself experienced how such powers can be abused, has unhesitatingly declared that the amendments proposed on the point by Dr. Gurudas Banerjea and Baboo Kalinath Mitter would produce mischief if adopted. Every good proposal made by the native members in the course of this discussion of the Municipal Bill is being rejected; but this has not disheartened the native members. Dr. Gurudas Banerjea and Baboo Kalinath Mitter are doing their work heroically in spite of the official odds against them.

*NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI*,
April 9th, 1888.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

56. The *Sahachar*, of the 4th April, says that it is hardly creditable to English Political officers, who have been ruling at Gwalior since the death of the late Maharaja Scindia, that gangs of dacoits now infest that State. It was not so during the lifetime of the late Maharaja.

SAHACHAR,
April 4th, 1888.

57. The same paper has heard a rumour to the effect that Raja Joy Prakas Lal of Doomraon will be appointed to some high post in the state of Cashmere. It is not known what post he will get. The Prime Ministership has already been filled up by the Maharaja's brother. The ex-Dewan Luchman Das intends

SAHACHAR

to appeal to Lord Dufferin against his dismissal by the Maharaja. His appeal will be simply useless. In view of the present ministerial crisis in Cashmere, Baboo Nilambar Mukerjee ought to be restored to his office in that State.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 10th, 1888.

58. The *Dainik and Samachar Chandrika*, of the 10th April, says that the letter addressed by the Government of India to Sir Lepel Griffin, on the subject

of the articles written in the *Amrita Bazar* relating to Bhopal affairs, will fail to satisfy the public and to hush up the Bhopal scandals. The evidence brought forward by the *Amrita Bazar* in support of its charges is of too stubborn a character to yield to such superficial treatment as the Viceroy's letter subjects it to. It is now clear that Sir Lepel is not solely to blame, and that in kindling the fire now raging in Bhopal, he only carried out the orders of the Viceroy. So the only effect of the publication of the Viceroy's letter has been not to exculpate Sir Lepel, but to transfer a portion of the blame hitherto imputed to him to the Government of India itself.

While the whole country, in one voice, is condemning Sir Lepel, the Viceroy is giving very favourable testimony in his favour. There is, of course, no questioning the verdict of so august an authority as the Viceroy of India. It now, therefore, remains to be seen how the writers in the native press who have attacked Sir Lepel will be dealt with. The Czar of Russia would have transported them to Siberia. It is hoped that Lord Dufferin will, by way of punishing the native press, pass a law like the Press Act of 1878, and that he will do so before he leaves India for good. Various proposals are now being made to keep alive the memory of Lord Dufferin's administration in India. Some are for a statue, some for a Technical College, and so on. But the best way of commemorating Lord Dufferin's administration will be the passing of a strong Press Act and appointing Sir Lepel to enforce its provisions.

Those who think that oppressive conduct on the part of the Political officers is prejudicial to the interests of British Rule in India will now see their error. They should now see that any diminution of the power of the Political officers will be attended with the loss of British prestige and consequent subversion of the British rule in India!

And they should now recognise "Might is right" to be the best and soundest of political maxims. And surely the prestige of a Dalhousie, who guided himself by that maxim, is a hundred times greater than that of a Ripon!

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
April 5th, 1888.

59. The *Surabhi and Pataka*, of the 5th April, says that a tornado passed over Varenga and other villages in the Pubna district on the 27th March last. The

A storm in the district of Pubna. injury done to life and property was very great. Some 6,000 houses have been utterly wrecked, and thousands of people have received more or less injury, and 17 of them have died up to date. Some six or seven men are now lying in a precarious condition. Villages have been destroyed, trees have been uprooted, and tanks have been filled up with the wreck of all kinds and with the dead bodies of men and animals. On the 28th the Police Sub-Inspector, Baboo Nanda Kumar Basu, personally inspected the villages in question, and submitted a report to the Magistrate, asking him to send a doctor as well as aid for the poor whose houses have been destroyed. The Magistrate has, however, up to this time done nothing in the matter. The Government and the general public are appealed to on behalf of the poor villagers.

SANJIVANI,
April 7th, 1888.

60. The *Sanjivani*, of the 7th April, says, on the authority of a correspondent, that the Magistrate of Pubna has declined to help the poor people of Varenga

The storm in the district of Pubna.

and the other villages in that district which were recently visited by a tornado, although he was requested to do so by the Police Sub-Inspector, who inspected the villages after the tornado. Such conduct, it goes on to say, on the part of a district officer, and at such a time, is hardly pardonable. It is hoped that Sir Steuart Bayley will lose no time in attending to the wants of the villagers.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

61. The *Cháruvartá*, of the 2nd April, says that the people of this country having, through the medium of the native press, all along condemned Lord Dufferin's policy in connection with the annexation of Burmah, the construction of defensive works on the north-western frontier, the imposition of new taxes, and the increase of the duty on salt, they would have been guilty of grave inconsistency if they had joined the recent demonstrations in honour of His Lordship.

CHABU VARTA,
April 2nd, 1888.

62. The *Surabhi and Patáka*, of the 5th April, has the following on the subject of Lord Dufferin's departure from Calcutta on Thursday last:—

SURABHI & PATAKA,
April 5th, 1888.

"Lord Dufferin, do you remember the scene on the memorable day when you accompanied Lord Ripon from Government House to the railway station at Howrah—the countless human heads floating on the stream of human beings, the hundreds of youths, flag in hand, walking in the front and in the rear of the Viceregal car, shouting victory to the departing Viceroy: the tremendous shout of victory proceeding from a thousand throats which, after shaking the wide stream of the Ganges and resounding and reverberating all through the sky, reached the very abode of the gods? It seems that, as you left Calcutta last Thursday, the memory of that day of Lord Ripon's departure returned to your mind, and the expression of your face clearly showed that you keenly felt the difference between that day and the day of your own departure."

63. The same paper, referring to the case against Mr. Vaillant (the captain of a steamer which recently went to Assam with a large number of coolies), who has been charged by a coolie chaprasi with having attempted to outrage the modesty of a coolie woman on board the steamer, observes that complaints against this Vaillant are being heard for a long time, and that most men are dissatisfied with him. It therefore behoves the authorities to keep a strict eye upon him. Is not this Vaillant the same who once attempted to enter into the cabin of a Rani at the Sara Ghât ferry.

SURABHI & PATAKA.

64. The *Arya Darpan*, of the 6th April, praises Lady Dufferin for visiting respectable native ladies at their houses. Lady Dufferin has, by so doing, proved herself to be a woman of the most winning grace and courtesy. No eminent English lady in India has ever equalled Lady Dufferin in this respect.

ARYA DARPAN,
April 6th, 1888.

65. The *Sulabh Samáchar and Kushdaha*, of the 6th April, says that before Lord Dufferin came to India he was known to be a clever diplomatist, and during his tenure of office as Viceroy his reputation as a diplomatist has not suffered in the least. His Lordship has displayed great tact in demarcating the Afghan boundary, and he has also easily annexed Burmah.

SULABH SAMACHAR &
KUSHDAHANA,
April 6th, 1888.

In his manners, Lord Dufferin is a perfect gentleman. The Editor of the *Indian Mirror* newspaper has severely criticised his acts, but His Lordship has been known to praise him for his independent spirit. And none but a perfect gentleman could behave in this way. The people of this

country ought to be grateful to His Lordship for the internal peace and tranquillity which they have enjoyed during his administration. The writer next compares Lord Dufferin and Lord Ripon.

Lord Dufferin is a gentleman, and Lord Ripon was a pious man. Shortly after his arrival in this country, Lord Dufferin held out high hopes to the people of this country in his public utterances, but he has not succeeded in fulfilling them. Lord Ripon did not make large promises, for a virtuous man is not a man of many words. But though Lord Ripon made no promises, he succeeded in doing a great deal for the people of this country. Heaven helped him in all his noble undertakings, and that is why he was able to carry out many beneficial measures.

Lord Dufferin is a lover of his country; Lord Ripon was a lover of mankind. It has never been the intention of Lord Dufferin to do any harm to the people of India, for a perfect gentleman like him is incapable of conceiving such an intention. But being a lover of his own country, he has felt no hesitation in increasing the troubles of the people of this country where such a course has seemed to him necessary, for the purpose of increasing the honour and prestige or the material welfare of England. Lord Dufferin's principal object in settling the Afghan boundary question, and in annexing Burmah, has been to uphold and increase England's honour and prestige, and when therefore it became necessary for him to spend large sums of money for the accomplishment of that object, he did not hesitate to replenish his treasury by such a measure as the imposition of the income-tax and the increase of the salt duty—two measures which have considerably increased the misery of the Indian people. Lord Ripon was more a philanthropist than a patriot, and so the interests of England and India were equally precious in his eyes.

The people of England enjoy the benefits of Local Self-Government, and so Lord Ripon was desirous that the boon of Local Self-Government should be enjoyed by the people of India too. Lord Ripon was a lover of mankind, and he therefore hated war, and relieved the sufferings of the people of India by reducing the duty on salt. Lord Dufferin is an agent of his sovereign; Lord Ripon was an agent of the Almighty. Lord Dufferin looks to the interests of his sovereign; Lord Ripon did everything to please God. Of all the nations of the world, the Indians are the most virtuous and religious, they will therefore appreciate a man like Lord Ripon much better than the people of England. For good acts done by them respectively Lord Dufferin will be rewarded by man, and Lord Ripon will be rewarded by God. The people of India honour and respect Lord Dufferin, but they love, honour and respect Lord Ripon.

PRAJA BANDHU,
April 6th, 1888.

66. The *Prajā Bandhu*, of the 6th April, says that the meetings of the Mahomedan Literary Association and the Central National Mahomedan Association, at which it was resolved to present His Excellency Lord Dufferin with an address on behalf of the Mahomedan community, were convened chiefly through the efforts of Nawab Abdul Lutif and Mr. Amir Ali, and as these two men owe their present elevation to Englishmen, no importance can be attached to the demonstration got up by them.

SANJIVANI,
April 7th, 1888.

67. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani*, of the 7th April, says that some 2,000 Hindus were prevented by some constables posted at the gate of the Town Hall from attending the meeting recently held there for the purpose of doing honour to Lord Dufferin. Now the poor constables cannot be held responsible for this, for there can be no doubt that they only carried out the orders of the conveners of the meeting. It is, therefore, desirable that, with a view of preventing such unjust and improper exclusion from public meetings in

The Town Hall meeting.

future, some one among those who were not allowed to enter the hall should sue the conveners of the meeting for damages for loss of time and honour so suffered by them. The editor considers this suggestion worthy of special consideration.

68. The same paper has received serious complaints against Baboo Kailas Chandra Pal, Naib of the village of Jayapur in the district of Howrah. The village in question is the zemindari property of the late Baboo Sagar Chandra Dutt and is now under the management of the Administrator-General who would do well to institute an enquiry into the conduct of this naib.

SANJIVANI,
April 7th, 1888.

An attempt at rape on a *Methrani* in the Zoological Gardens.

69. A correspondent of the same paper, referring to an attempt at rape on a *Methrani* alleged to have been recently committed by a Saheb in the Zoological Gardens, observes that such acts of oppression on the part of low Europeans have made the country restless, and unless places of public resort are secured against the commission of such acts native gentlemen will not dare to visit them with their families.

SANJIVANI

ASSAM PAPERS.

70. The *Paridarshak*, of the 2nd April, says that of all the Provinces of India Assam has suffered most from oppressions committed in connection with the income-tax assessments. Rupees 29 on an average has been collected from the class of people who usually pay this tax. Is Assam richer than Bengal, Madras or Bombay? And is there no *ma bap* of the people of Assam? It is a matter of regret that the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet is not satisfied with the assessments made in that district, notwithstanding that the assessments have been made in the most rigorous manner possible. The tax has been assessed on the proceeds of the sales of paddy. Why has it not then been assessed on the proceeds of the sales of tea by the tea-planters? The Chief Commissioner of Assam is requested to earn the gratitude of the people of Assam by making a careful enquiry into the oppressions committed in connection with these income-tax assessments.

PARIDARSHAK,
April 2nd, 1888.

71. The same paper disapproves of the order passed by Mr. Stevenson, the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, on the appeal preferred by Shohorullah and Issabullah. The Deputy Commissioner has upheld the sentence passed by Mr. Mesurier on Shohorullah for assaulting the police constable at Kazirbazar, and has dismissed the appeal. In disposing of this appeal, the Deputy Commissioner has apparently taken no note of the fact that Mr. Mesurier had throughout acted in a spirit of partiality towards the police, and he had punished the defendant only with the view of maintaining the prestige of the police. A careful consideration of the evidence given in the case will also lead one to the conclusion that the conviction of Shohorullah was bad.

PARIDARSHAK.

72. The same paper says that there was an animated discussion at the last meeting of the Karimgunge Local Board on the subject of giving contracts to the local contractors. Two European tea-planters and the Engineer were opposed to the proposal to give contracts to the local contractors on the following grounds:—

PARIDARSHAK.

Contracts under the Karimgunge Local Board.

(1) The local contractors have not sufficient money to be able to execute their contracts satisfactorily.

(2) The local contractors cannot perform their work satisfactorily, and the coolies of the province whom they employ cannot work as hard as coolies from the North-Western Provinces.

- (3) On the approach of the rainy season, the coolies of the province leave their work under the contractors and go away to cultivate their fields.

There is, indeed, some truth in this ; but these objections are not strong enough to justify the refusal of contracts to the local contractors. The people of Karimgunge are generally poor, and the failure of the crops for the last four or five years has greatly increased their misery. Many mehals have consequently been sold for arrears of Government revenue. Under these circumstances it is desirable, in the interest of both the Government and the people of the district, that a part of the local cesses should find its way into the pockets of the latter in some shape or other, and granting contracts to the local contractors is one of the means by which this can be brought about. As regards the first objection urged against the local contractors, its force will be minimised if the work, which is done under the contract system, is divided into small parts capable of being taken up and executed by contractors working with small capital.

As regards the second objection, it is to be observed that those who have seen work turned out by the local contractors will find it impossible to declare unfavourably regarding its quality or execution. The admirable Churkhai road is the work of the local contractors.

As regards the third objection, it is simply not true that the coolies of the province leave their work during the rainy season.

The Engineer considers it a humiliation to serve under the Local Board. The Local Board has ordered him to construct a ghât in the Public Works Department tank, but he has not yet undertaken the work. Will the Local Board take no notice of his conduct ?

PARIDARSHAK.
April 2nd, 1888.

73. A correspondent of the same paper says that Baboo Gagan Chandra Ker, head-constable of the Kanaria Rajnagar outpost in Assam, is an able officer.

A deserving police officer.
He is very successful in bringing *budmashes* to justice. He has recently, with great difficulty, succeeded in tracing some dacoits. He is an intelligent man, and has displayed great skill and ability as a detective in many difficult cases.

PARIDARSHAK.

74. Another correspondent of the same paper complains of the high-handed proceedings of Krishna Baboo, the Forest Head Guard at Srichandan Jum hills on the west of Vanugatch pergunnah, within

Krishna Baboo, Forest Head Guard in Vanugatch pergunnah in Assam.

the Moulavi Bazar sub-division in Assam. Fifteen or sixteen men were cutting bamboos on the Srichandan Jum hill with the permission of the local mouzadars, the rightful owners of this hill. Krishna Baboo attacked these innocent men. But he let off those among them who gave him bribes ; the rest, who could not bribe him, were *challaned* on a charge of theft, and Mr. Pope, the Sub-divisional Officer of Moulavi Bazar, has fined them one rupee each.

People have all along cut bamboos on these hills, but they were never before charged with theft for so doing. Government never informed the people that these hills now belong to it, and that any one cutting bamboos there would be punished. The people are therefore still under the impression that the *Mirasdars* are the only lawful owners of these hills, and they should not therefore be treated as thieves for cutting bamboos.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

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